Robot Halloween Costume

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🔧 TOOLS:

- Box cutter (1)
- Needle Nose Pliers (1)
- Respirator (1)
- Scissors (1)

⚙ PARTS:

- Krylon Premium Original Chrome Spray Paint (2 cans)
- Krylon Short Cuts Paint Pens (1)
  any colors you like
- Cardboard box (2)
- Dryer Ducting (5 ft)
- Reflectors (6)
- Faucet Knobs (2)
- Scraps of Wire (1)
- Bolts with Nuts and Washers (2)
- LEDs (2)
  the bigger the better
- Coin cell battery (1)
- Gloves (1)
- Painter's tape (1)
- Dropcloth (1)
- Duct tape (1)
- Paint Can (1)
  fresh and clean with no label

SUMMARY

I know a little girl who has wanted to be a robot for as long as she can remember — a dancing robot, to be precise. The best thing about being a kid is letting your imagination run wild. The best thing about being a grown-up is being able to make a child's dreams come to life. Introducing the BoogieBot 5000, the best robot Halloween costume ever.

After deciding to build my base from two cardboard boxes covered with Krylon Premium Metallics Original Chrome spray paint, I took a walk through the hardware store for inspiration. When you let yourself think from the perspective of a child, everything becomes something — dryer ducting for arms, faucet handles for ears, and cycling reflectors for flashy buttons.

The finishing touches were two big blue eyes. I drew them on with a Krylon Short Cuts paint pen, then taped LEDs to watch batteries to make them glow. The shiny chrome paint brightly reflects the light, and really brings the costume to (artificial) life.

Step 1 — Robot Halloween Costume

● Get ready for a Halloween robot dance party from outer space!

Step 2

- Gather your materials and set up a workspace with dropcloths.

Step 3

- Size up the child who will be wearing the costume. Make sure that the boxes you have will fit their body and head. The box should be big enough so that their movements aren't hindered, but small enough to allow them to put their arms down at their sides.

Step 4

- Mark and cut the necessary holes in the boxes.

- For the robot's body, cut a hole for the child's head in the top of the box. Cut two arm holes the same circumference as the ducting in the sides of the box. For the legs, just cut the bottom out of the box entirely.

- Use a smaller box for the robot's head. Cut a hole in the bottom of the box, centered and wide enough so that it will slip over the child's head. Then cut a mouth into the front of the box, large enough for the child to have plenty of room to see.

Step 5

- Tape the flaps down after you have cut out the holes.

Step 6

- Prep for painting by throwing on some painting clothes. Don't forget to wear your respirator.
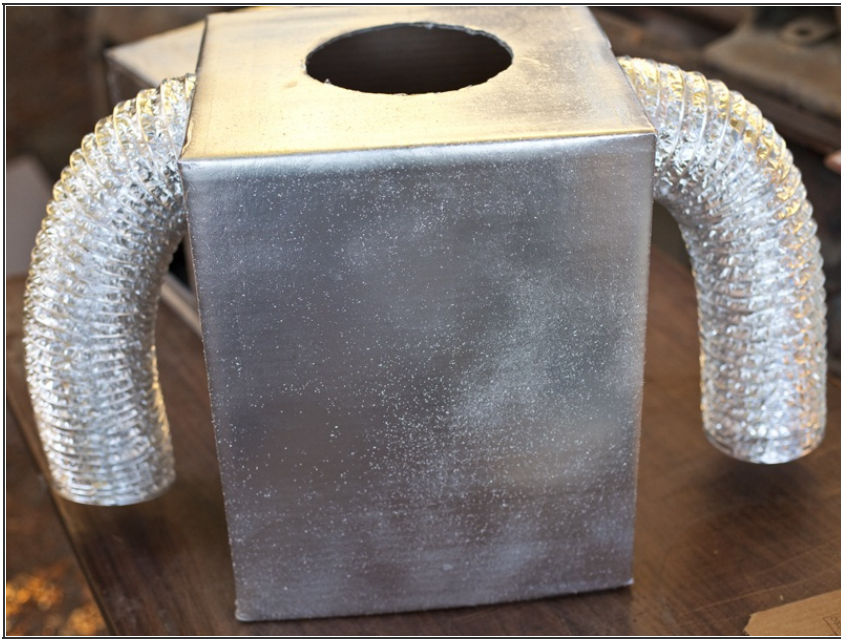
Step 7

- Rattle the paint can for 2 minutes to mix the Krylon Premium Metallic. It's a heavy paint, so mixing it well is important.

- Hold the can 10 to 12 inches from the box and press the nozzle down to spray. Use smooth swooping motions to cover the box evenly and without drips.

- Apply 2 coats of paint, allowing 5 minutes for the paint to dry in between. If your box is printed, you might need more layers for a perfect finish.

- Set the painted boxes aside to dry for 20 minutes.

Step 8

- Cut the dryer ducting in half and tape one end of each piece into the arm holes. Just reach inside the box from the bottom and secure the inside of the ducting to the inside of the box with duct tape.

Step 9

- Attach the faucet handle ears to either side of the head with the nuts and bolts.

Step 10

- Cut slots in the front of the box and weave wires through them. Tape the ends down on the inside of the box to hold them in place.
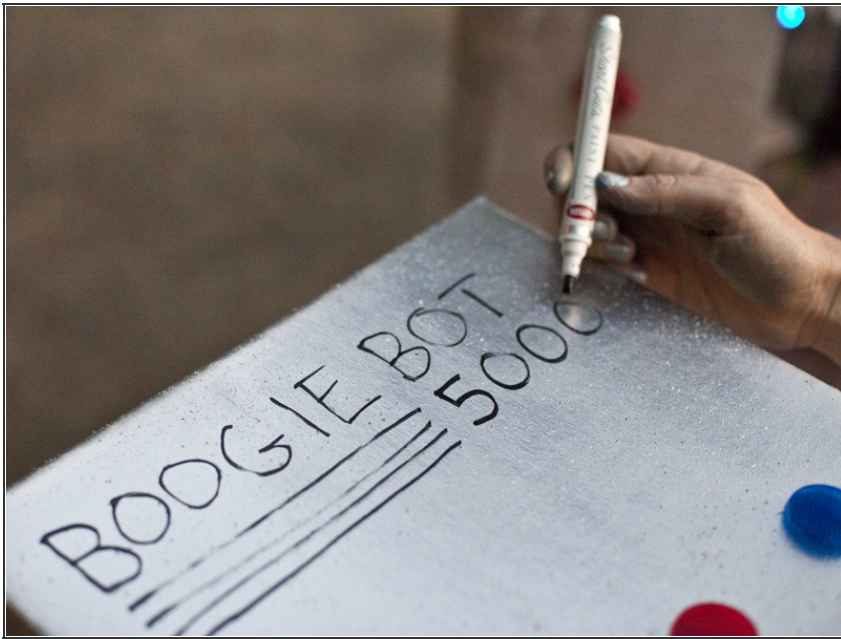
Step 11

- Attach the reflectors to the front of the box. The reflectors I used had adhesive backing, otherwise use glue or duct tape.
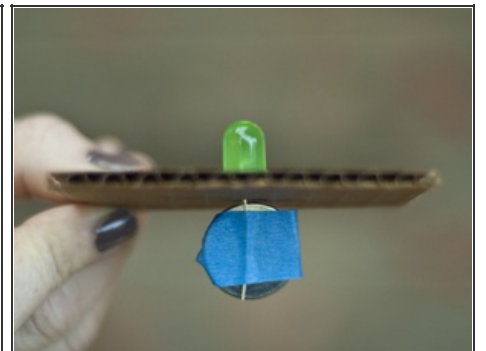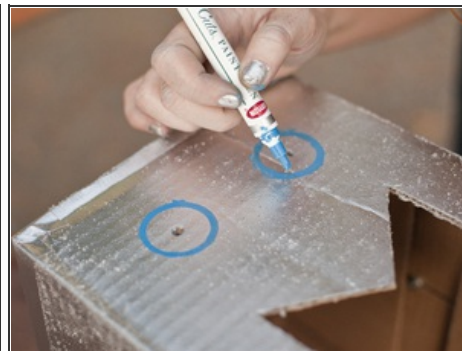
Step 12

- Use the Krylon Short Cuts paint pen to draw the model number of your robot onto the front of the box. To get the paint flowing, press the tip of the pen down firmly. Once it's saturated with paint, use normal pressure to write and draw.
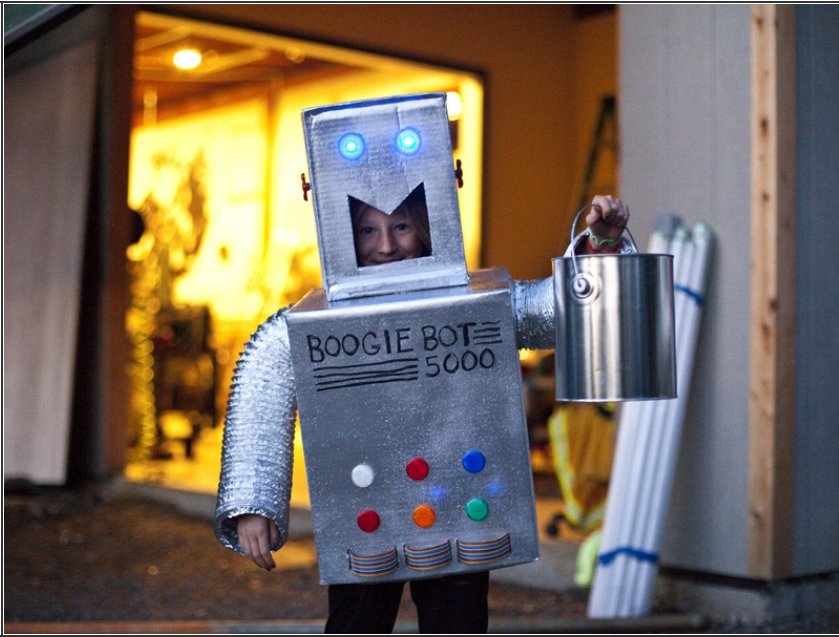
Step 13

- Poke two holes above the mouth for the LED eyes. Use the Krylon Short Cuts paint pen to draw large circles around the holes, then attach the LEDs.
- The LED eyes are really simple. Drop the leads into the eyeholes, and then slip the battery in between the leads. The long lead on the LED connects to the positive side of the battery- the short lead to the negative side. Tape them together with a bit of painter's tape. They will glow until the battery runs out, at least a couple of days.

Step 14

- When it's time for trick-or-treating, the shiny paint can makes the perfect candy bucket.

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